

jobs and private health insurance. Daughter Kathleen is 10 years old, has cerebral palsy, mental retardation, and uses a wheelchair. Medicaid provides the Biel family with \$87,000 worth of physical and occupational therapies, hospital and other medical care. Without this support the Biel's would be forced to place Kathleen in an institution, which would cost \$240,000 annually.

The Carter family includes parents Greg and Meri-Ellyn, two sons, and Lauren, age 7, who has cerebral palsy, mental retardation, and blindness. Greg has a full-time job and Meri-Ellyn stays home with the children. Until recently, the family received \$45,000 from Medicaid in the form of home nursing care and physical therapies, which allowed Lauren to live at home despite the fact that Lauren cannot be left alone, her needs were determined to be nonemergency in nature and her Medicaid benefits were terminated. Lauren now lives apart from her family in an institution that costs \$55,000 annually.

The Sapp's, Biel's, and Carters are among the millions of families across America that rely on Medicaid support to meet the extraordinary health and developmental needs of their children with significant disabilities. Thanks to Medicaid, these children lead more independent and successful lives at home, with family. Most often, assistance at an early age enhances the ability of these children to develop physical, emotional, and social skills, advances their capacity to learn, and enables them to participate more skillfully in family and community life. Similarly, adults with disabilities rely on Medicaid to achieve health, employment, and personal goals that directly relate to their ability to lead independent and productive lives.

Two of the three families profiled in these articles received services from the Easter Seals Society, which is dedicated to assisting children and adults to live with equality, dignity, and independence. Since its founding in Ohio in 1919, Easter Seals has helped millions of people with disabilities nationwide through home and community services that are overseen by volunteers and paid for by charitable donations, corporate contributions, and the investment of government funds. According to Easter Seals, the compelling stories told by the Biels, Sapps, and Carters are not unique but are typical of the experiences of countless families that need Medicaid and Easter Seals to get by.

For the 4.9 million children and adults with disabilities who depend on Medicaid and associated programs, such as early intervention and assistive technology, there are few, if any, alternative sources of support. Medicaid is the linchpin that fosters individual development, learning, and independence, and enables families to stay together, most often as primary care givers for persons with disabilities.

To date, Medicaid has operated as Federal-State partnership. Some of the country's most innovative, cost-efficient approaches to home and community-based service delivery and EPSDT early detection and intervention have originated under Medicaid. Although many legitimate needs have not been met by Medicaid and related programs, the current array of services and support are crucial to the health and quality of life for millions of individuals and families, and represent a wise cost-effective commitment to public funds.

The Columbus Dispatch stories clearly show the direct relationship between investing in

services to support families and the alternative, which is most often higher cost institutional care. According to the newspaper, in many of these families, either one or both parents work. Most struggle to keep their children at home, and willingly assume the disruption and expense. But their ability to keep their families intact directly depends on continued Medicaid support.

As we evaluate the pros and cons of making significant reforms to the Medicaid Program, I urge my colleagues to read these articles and be mindful of the daily confronting families affected by disability and the critical role that Medicaid plays in their lives. Copies of the Columbus Dispatch articles are available from the National Seal Society in Washington, DC.

WAIT A MINUTE, MR. POSTMAN

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 1995

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Postal Service Debt Reduction and Truth in Budgeting Act, which will commit the Postal Service to a 7-year-debt reduction plan.

Mr. Speaker, for far too long, Congress and the American people have been kept in the dark regarding the finances of the U.S. Postal Service. Very few Americans know that the Postal Service is servicing a debt of more than \$7 billion. What they do know is that their mail is not delivered on time and that the cost of a first class stamp jumped by 3 cents last year. This situation needs to be changed.

Even before I was elected to Congress, I was critical of the Postal Service's lack of budgetary integrity and its overall service. Their unwillingness to tackle their multibillion dollar debt has convinced me that real, fundamental reform is needed.

Since last year, Postmaster General Runyon has taken some encouraging steps toward fiscal responsibility. Much to everyone's surprise, the Postal Service ran a surplus this year of \$1.8 billion; only the seventh time in 25 years it has managed to operate in the black. However, the Postal Service still lacks a serious plan that holds it fiscally accountable to Congress and our Nation's taxpayers.

Despite their \$7.3 billion debt and the rare opportunity to reduce it with their \$1.8 billion surplus, Postmaster General Runyon, recently gave bonuses to 1,000 senior postal executives for a year when customers faced a 10 percent hike in the price of a first class stamp. It is these actions that require me to introduce this bill.

Mr. Runyon seems to be doing little more than introducing short-term gimmicks and rate hikes to absorb the escalating costs of running an increasingly inefficient monopoly. The Postal Service is utilizing a good portion of its administrative, labor and capital resources on projects that have nothing to do with the agency's primary responsibility: delivering the mail on time. Recently, the Postal Service announced that it was entering into a joint venture with a private company to offer prepaid telephone calling cards, a service already provided by the private sector. Mr. Runyon should have the agency concentrating on delivering the mail.

The legislation I am introducing will require the Postmaster General to follow a fiscally responsible course that the American people have demanded from their Government led by the 104th Congress. Specifically, it would require the Postmaster General to submit a 7-year plan to put the Postal Service's fiscal house in order. It would also require an annual, in-depth accounting of its budget to show which postal programs and practices are working and which ones need to be reformed or eliminated.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor the Postal Service Debt Reduction and Truth in Budgeting Act. Let us include the U.S. Postal Service in our efforts to create a smaller, smarter Government that is accountable to the American taxpayers.

DISPELLING THE MYTHS

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of myths about the Republican balanced budget my colleagues on the other side of the aisle seem bent on perpetuating. For instance, part of their mantra states that our tax cuts benefit the rich.

Mr. Speaker, that is just patently wrong. According to the Joint Committee on Taxation, 80 percent of the GOP tax cuts go to those making less than \$100,000 and 61 percent go to those making between \$30,000 and \$75,000. These are hard working, middle-class Americans, not the rich.

The Heritage Foundation found that 80 percent of the \$500 per-child tax credit benefit goes to families with incomes less than \$75,000. Some 3.5 million families, at the lowest income levels, will no longer pay taxes. Finally, our budget erases 51 percent of taxes for families of four earning less than \$30,000.

Throughout the budget negotiations, the White House has clearly demonstrated that it is not serious about reaching a balanced budget in 7 years. Rather than respond directly to the budget negotiators about the balanced budget plan, the White House has chosen instead to release a document that simply reiterates the same old, worn-out myths about the Republican efforts to harm senior citizens, children, working families, the poor, students, veterans, and just any other group you can think of.

Tax cuts benefit America's families, not the rich. Mr. Speaker, the time has come to peel away the rhetoric and distortions and begin to focus on the facts. America's future depends on it.

TRIBUTE TO EMILY KUMPEL

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 1995

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emily Kumpel of Wakefield, MA, for her outstanding dedication and service to others in need. Although she is only 11 years old, this sixth grader has done